

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SOURCE:

1. Q. Compare the status, privileges, salaries, and fees of doctors in military and civil medicine.
 - A. Their status is probably the same. Financially, military doctors are better off, since officers' salaries are generally much higher than civilians'. As a medical assistant in civilian life, for example, I earned 600 rubles monthly; recalled to the army as a medical assistant, I earned 1250 rubles per month. In addition to higher salaries, officers enjoyed cheaper billets and reduced prices for uniforms. As privileges they had Voyentorg facilities where they could buy various goods at considerably reduced prices. As far as fees were concerned, officially, civilians could not receive any; unofficially, military doctors could have a private practice and receive fees just as well as civilian doctors. There was, however, one advantage civilian doctors had over military - the reputation they enjoyed. For some reason, people did not trust the military doctors very much and preferred to be treated by civilians.
2. Q. What was the professional status of people engaged in dentistry, i.e., their comparative social standing, salary, political reliability, any preferential treatment received, with the status of those in the medical profession?

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- A. I believe that there was no difference in social standing and salary between college-graduate stomatologists and physicians. Dentists, as such, without college education, were equivalent to medical assistants. There was no preferential treatment given either group. I do not personally believe that there was any difference in the political reliability of dentists and doctors taken as groups.
3. Q. Was there any special political indoctrination given members of the medical profession, other than regular CP history courses?
- A. In colleges and higher medical and stomatological schools political indoctrination was the same as in any other college or institute. The same applied in the armed forces, where medical and dental personnel were subjected to the same political indoctrination as other officers.
4. Q. What was the actual work load of an average medical doctor?
- A. In civilian life, as well as in the services, the working time of a medical doctor was eight hours, six days a week. The work-load of military and civilian doctors employed in hospitals and sanatoriums was much heavier than that of those who served with administrative medical agencies or army units.
5. Q. Why did people become doctors; what were their rewards and what type of person became a doctor?
- A. There was no special trend among Soviet youth to become doctors, at least no more than to become an engineer or teacher. For the most part, children of doctors would go to medical school because of parental influence. Girls did like to become doctors, since it was a more attractive profession than that of engineer, technician, or teacher.
6. Q. Were any classes of persons excluded from the medical profession, i.e., relatives of political prisoners, sons of kulaks, and persons considered unreliable due to family background, status, or class?
- A. Such persons could not get a college education; perhaps this general rule has been changed in recent years.
7. Q. What is the best appeal for cooperation of doctors in resistance efforts?
- A. There was no creative activity in the regular medical profession; therefore, no special appeal could be made for the cooperation of doctors in resistance efforts. However, everything that would appeal to the Soviet intelligentsia, aside from its creative elements, would appeal at the same time to doctors. Literary people, scientists, designers, musicians, and inventors would be much more susceptible to suggestions of resistance.
8. Q. What were doctors' complaints against the present system?
- A. I can think of no special complaints. In this respect, doctors felt like everybody else with a college education in the USSR.
9. Q. Did limited facilities for patients cause resentment among doctors?
- A. Since there was no criterion for comparison with conditions in Western countries, such resentment actually did not exist.

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10. Q. Did the average doctor want medical services improved?
- A. Yes, very much so; but this was usually done only by means of constructive criticism.
11. Q. Were satellite doctors politically reliable?
- A. I have no information. I think they were no more reliable than other members of the satellites' intelligentsia.
12. Q. What do you know of satellite doctors and their relationship to those of the USSR? Did they look up to or down upon Soviet medicine?
- A. I only know that Soviet medical doctors had high respect for Western doctors, even the German ones in East Germany. Old Soviet doctors who held diplomas from Western universities were usually highly honored and respected.

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